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Developing a Livestock Master Plan with the Government of Ethiopia

The Livestock Resources Development Sector (or Livestock State Ministry) of the Ethiopia Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) have been collaborating on the development of a Livestock Master Plan (LMP) to provide guidance to the government of Ethiopia on future priorities for livestock research and development activities.

The LMP is a key input into the planning for Ethiopia's next 5-year development investment plan, the Growth and Transformation Plan.

The LMP project is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Beyond the plan itself, the project aims to build the capacity of the government to carry out data-driven, fact-based analytics and planning.

The LMP was developed by a joint team of 4 ILRI and 3 MOA staff. Development was overseen by a high-level Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprising directors of key MOA Livestock State Ministry departments and institutes, as well as representatives from FAO, IGAD, ATA and the two presidents of the relevant Ethiopian professional associations of livestock experts (the Ethiopian Society of Animal Production (ESAP) and the Ethiopian Veterinary Association (EVA)).

Commenting on the results of the Livestock Sector Analysis (LSA) report, the State Minister for Livestock Development said the report is 'very strong and data-driven'. According to the State Minister, 'this study is the first of its kind; it can change the mindset of the policy makers; it helps the government to take the livestock sector seriously.'

When presented with the LMP, HE Ato Tefera Derebew, Minister of Agriculture, Government of Ethiopia, said "we will adopt and implement this plan."

Since these meetings in July 2014, the State Minister has taken ownership of the plan and has presented it at plenary sessions of the Ethiopia Society of Animal Production and the Ethiopian Veterinary Association, as well as to donors and the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development.

The ILRI institutional research strategy states that livestock often represent as much as 40% of agricultural GDP in many developing countries, but frequently receives a much smaller proportion of funding and barely features in key policies. If livestock production is to play a significant part in solving the challenges of food insecurity and poverty, this will have to change.

The LMP project shows the potential pay-offs from close engagement of institutes like ILRI with national partners, especially, the governments of developing countries, to influence livestock policy and investment planning.

This activity has been supported by the ALive group (African Partnership for Livestock Development) of AU-IBAR (African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources), as well as CIRAD and the World Bank who provided support to implement the Livestock Sector Investment and Policy Toolkit (LSIPT) used to develop the sector model, including the training in its use.

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The International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) works to improve food security and reduce poverty in developing countries through research for better and more sustainable use of livestock. ILRI is a member of the CGIAR Consortium, a global research partnership of 15 centres working with many partners for a food-secure future. ILRI has two main campuses in East Africa and other hubs in East, West and Southern Africa and South, Southeast and East Asia. ilri.org



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